

**40 CFR Part 82****[FRL-5657-9]****Protection of Stratospheric Ozone****AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency.**ACTION:** Notice of response to petition.

**SUMMARY:** This action notifies the public that the Agency received a petition pursuant to section 612(d) of the Clean Air Act, under the Significant New Alternatives Policy (SNAP) Program, and that EPA has responded to the petition. The petition requested that EPA take several specific actions. EPA had already implemented certain requests prior to receipt of the petition, and will not take the other requested actions. SNAP implements section 612 of the amended Clean Air Act of 1990, which requires EPA to evaluate substitutes for ozone-depleting Substances (ODS) and to regulate the use of substitutes where other alternatives exist that reduce overall risk to human health and the environment. Through these evaluations, EPA generates lists of acceptable and unacceptable substitutes for each of the major industrial use sectors.

EPA has listed several refrigerants as acceptable substitutes for CFC-12 in motor vehicle air conditioning (MVAC), provided they are used in accordance with several requirements. We have worked with the MVAC industry to minimize the mixing of refrigerants and to ensure that the recycled supply of CFC-12 is protected from contamination. Contaminated refrigerant poses numerous technical problems, and may damage both the vehicle's air conditioner and equipment in shops that service such vehicles.

The Association of International Automobile Manufacturers petitioned EPA to take additional steps to prevent the mixing of refrigerants. In general, AIAM believes that only HFC-134a should be used as a retrofit refrigerant. EPA has expressed the belief that HFC-134a is a good choice when a retrofit kit exists that is warranted by the manufacturer. However, some kits are quite expensive, and for many cars, they do not even exist. Therefore, EPA's position has been that other alternatives have an important role to play. Therefore, we will continue to review alternative refrigerants and impose conditions on their use to eliminate the mixing of refrigerants. The petition is file number VI-D-197, and the response is file number VI-C-18.

**ADDRESSES:** Information relevant to this notice is contained in Air Docket A-91-

42, Central Docket Section, South Conference Room 4, U.S. Environmental Agency, 401 M Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20460. Telephone: (202) 260-7548. The docket may be inspected between 8:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. weekdays. As provided in 40 CFR part 2, a reasonable fee may be charged for photocopying.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Rey Forte at (202) 233-9134 or fax (202) 233-9577, U.S. EPA, Stratospheric Protection Division, 401 M Street S.W., Mail Code 6205J, Washington, D.C. 20460.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Contact the Stratospheric Protection Hotline at 1-800-296-1996, Monday-Friday, between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. (Eastern Standard Time) weekdays.

For more information on the Agency's process for administering the SNAP program or criteria for evaluation of substitutes, refer to the SNAP final rulemaking published in the Federal Register on March 18, 1994 (59 FR 13044). Federal Register notices can be ordered from the Government Printing Office Order Desk (202) 783-3238; the citation is the date of publication. This notice may also be obtained on the World Wide Web at <http://www.epa.gov/docs/ozone/title6/snap/>.

**List of Subjects in 40 CFR Part 82**

Environmental protection, Administrative practice and procedure, Air pollution control, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

Dated: November 22, 1996.

Mary D. Nichols,  
*Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation.*

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**BILLING CODE 6560-50-P**

**FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION****47 CFR PART 1****[MM Docket No. 87-268, FCC 96-465]****Technical Standards for Digital Television****AGENCY:** Federal Communications Commission.**ACTION:** Proposed rule.

**SUMMARY:** This Public Notice provides an opportunity for public comment on the appended agreement submitted to the Commission on November 27, 1996, by a number of parties representing a diverse range of interests concerning technical standards for digital

Television (DTV). The agreement addresses issues raised in the Fifth Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making in this proceeding. Copies of this agreement are available for public inspection in the docket file in the Commission's Public Reference Room, room 239, 1919 M Street, NW., Washington, DC, and on the Commission's internet site accessed at "www.fcc.gov." Interested parties are invited to submit comments on this proposal by Friday, December 6, 1996. The Commission contemplates action on the issue by end of 1996.

**DATES:** Comments are due on or before December 6, 1996.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Roger Holberg, (202) 418-2130, Gordon Godfrey (202) 418-2900, or Saul Shapiro (202) 418-2600.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****[MM Docket No. 87-268]**

The Commission Seeks Comment on Digital TV Standards Agreement

Technical Standards for Digital Television

On November 27, 1996, a number of parties representing a diverse range of interests submitted to the Commission the attached agreement on the issue of technical standards for digital television (DTV). The agreement addresses issues raised in the Fifth Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making in MM Docket No. 87-268, 61 FR 26864 (May 29, 1996). Copies of the agreement are available for public inspection in the docket file in the Commission's Public Reference Room, room 239, 1919 M St. NW., Washington, DC, and on the Commission's internet site accessed at "www.fcc.gov." Interested parties are invited to submit comments on this proposal by Friday, December 6, 1996. This public notice elicits comment only on matters concerning the elements of the ATSC digital television standard. The Commission does not contemplate any extension on the comment period, and there will be no reply comment filing period. The Commission contemplates action on the issue of technical standards for DTV by the end of 1996.

Federal Communication Commission.

William F. Caton,

*Acting Secretary.*

November 27, 1996.

The Honorable Susan Ness,

*Commissioner, Federal Communications*

*Commission, 1919 M Street, N.W., Room 832, Washington, D.C. 20554.*

Dear Commissioner Ness: As we reported to you yesterday, broadcasters, computer